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1938



# Annual Report

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

### Borough of

### Clifton Dartmouth Hardness.



DARTMOUTH:

R. CRANFORD & SON LTD., PRINTERS



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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
**FOR 1938.**

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*To the Worshipful the Mayor and Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Clifton Dartmouth Hardness.*

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Gentlemen,

In accordance with my statutory duties I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report upon the Health of the Inhabitants and the Sanitary Conditions of the Borough. The Report also contains details of the administration of the Factories Acts, 1937, as required by the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The figures used in this report for the estimated rates are those of the Registrar General's estimates of the Population to the middle of the year 1936.

**Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.**

Area in acres—1925.

Population census in 1931—6707.

Estimated population, 1938—5966.

Number of inhabited houses, about 1577.

Rateable value—£48,565.

Sum represented by 1d. rate—£190 7s. 4.2d.

Public debt—£109,007 19s. 3d.

Dartmouth is a seaport town with a population representative of all classes. The principal industries are Philip and Son's Shipbuilding and Engineering Works, and the Channel Coaling Co.'s Bunkering business. A certain amount of fishing is engaged in. The Royal Naval College is situated within the boundary of the Borough, and most of its staff, with their families, live in the town.

There is an agricultural area outside the town, in which are a number of farms and a small rural population.

A number of visitors stay in the town during the summer.

### Vital Statistics.

		Total	M	F		
Live Births	Legitimate	69	26	43	} Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population ...	12.22
	Illegitimate	4	3	1		
Still Births		2	1	1	Rate per 1000 total (live and Still Births)	26.66
Deaths		83	47	36	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated population ...	13.9

Deaths from puerperal causes :

		Deaths		
Puerperal Sepsis		0	} Rate per 1000 total (Live and Still Births)	00
Other Puerperal Causes		0		
		0		00

Death Rate of Infants under one year :

All Infants per 1000 Live Births	41.09
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate Live Births	41.09
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate Live Births	—

Deaths from Cancer	(all ages)—9
„ Measles	„ —0
„ Whooping Cough	„ —1
„ Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	—0

No excessive mortality or mortality from any noteworthy cause occurred.

### **General Provision of Health Services for the Area.**

The Public Health Officers of the Council are:—  
William H. Green, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., London. Part time M.O.H. and Medical Officer Maternity and Child Welfare.

William H. Jefford, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

LABORATORY FACILITIES are provided by the County Council at Exeter and by the Torbay Hospital at Torquay.

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

A Motor Ambulance is now available for cases in Dartmouth to be removed to the Local Hospital or elsewhere.

### **Nursing Facilities.**

A District Nurse is provided by the Local Committee. She is supported by voluntary contributions and small payments. She does not attend midwifery cases nor infectious cases. Private trained nurses live in the town and are made use of by the wealthier.

### **Maternity and Child Welfare.**

There is a certified Midwife appointed for the district and under the jurisdiction of the County Council and Queen's Nursing Association. There is also another certified midwife practising in the Town.

Provision is made at the Cottage Hospital for admission of obstetrical emergencies. Such cases can also be admitted to the Torbay Hospital.

The Dartmouth Hospital Committee has lately decided to admit women maternity cases to the Hospital no longer.

Consequently there are no instructional facilities for such cases.

There is a Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre in the Town, a report on which is appended.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

The Town is provided with sufficient sewers and the natural gradients are such that there is sufficient fall to cause good flushing. Ventilation is provided for by a number of 6in. ventilation shafts at the higher parts. The sewerage is carried direct into the River Dart by several separate sewers, the outfalls of which are below low water mark. The closet accommodation of the town is of the water carriage type and there are a few earth closets at the Farms and Cottages outside the town. There has been great improvement during the past years by increasing the number of w.c.'s to the tenements. There has been no extension or improvements during the year other than a 9in. sewer which has been re-laid from Fairfax Place to St. Saviour's Square, and a 9in. sewer re-laid at Brown's Hill

### **Rivers and Streams.**

There is very little pollution of rivers or streams in the area. The River Dart being a large tidal estuary is not much opportunity for pollution; although the sewerage from the Town is discharged into it untreated, the strong ebb tide carries it all out to sea.

### **Public Cleansing.**

The house refuse is removed in the same manner as in past years, the occupiers placing the refuse in a regulation dustbin at the door of the house, which is collected several times a week in Motor Vans. A daily collection is also made from the Royal Naval College. The approximate number of tons collected during the year was 1484. There is very little difficulty, and very few complaints as to the system, which works well.

The householders have now fallen in line with the suggestion thrown out year after year, and by order are using the regulation dust bin which is a more clean and sanitary method. These are under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Two Notices under Section 37 of the Dartmouth Corporation Act, 1928, were served during the year.

During 1938, owing to the Coombe Tip being filled in, a new piece of land was acquired from the Kingsbridge R.D.C. for a new tip. This is situated about a mile away from the Town in an area known as the Ridges. The rubbish is now tipped by controlled methods at Jawbones.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

### **Bakehouses.**

There are 10 in the area, 58 inspections have been made. General Condition—good.

### **Dairies and Cowsheds.**

There are 28 Dairies and 13 Cowsheds registered. Dairies have been inspected 165 times and Cowsheds 39 times. Number of Cowsheds with impervious floors, 11; unsatisfactory drainage, 0; bad lighting, 0; bad ventilation, 0; unsatisfactory water supply, 0.

Some Milkshops are general shops where other food is sold, and although the milk department is placed in a separate part of the shop there is always the possibility of any milk retained in the pans being contaminated, although the greater portion of the milk is distributed to the different customers' houses as soon as it comes from the farm.

The Milkshops are inspected at frequent intervals.

### **Slaughterhouses.**

There are 2 licensed slaughterhouses and a public abattoir.

They are all situated on Jawbones Hill in close proximity to each other. These places are under supervision of the Meat Inspector. The water supply to the slaughterhouses is rain water stored in large tanks. The well water is not now used as the windmill has been out of action for a long time. Further details are in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

### **Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.**

There are 2 premises on which rag flock is used and sold. These are in a satisfactory condition and frequently inspected.



### Eradication of Bed Bugs.

(a)	Council Houses Infested	...	...	...	0
(b)	Other Houses Infested	...	...	...	6
	Disinfested	...	...	...	6

### METHODS EMPLOYED.

- (a) Zaldicide Vermicide at intervals of seven days in houses.
- (b) No measures are taken for disinfecting furniture due for removal.
- (c) Propaganda and personal explanation is given to tenants of infected houses.

### Schools.

There are 5 Public Schools in the Town; 3 Council Schools, 1 Roman Catholic School and 1 Secondary School. They have all been inspected during the year. There are also 4 private schools.

Cases of Children staying away from school owing to supposed infectious disease are promptly reported to me. Contacts with infectious cases are kept away for the necessary period.

Drainage systems of these schools have been inspected during the year. Water supply is in all cases good.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### Milk.

Milk supply. The quality of the milk supplied to the Borough shows room for a good deal of improvement. It is brought into the town from the adjoining farms to the milk sellers who deliver it to the customers from door to door by cans or direct into the milk jugs and by sealed bottles (Certified Milk).

All milk sellers are registered and the milkshops are inspected at frequent intervals.

125 samples of milk were sent to the Bacteriological Laboratory for examination. Tubercle bacilli were found in none of 27 samples taken. The general cleanliness of the milk was poor. 61 samples failed in the Methylene Blue Test, i.e., showed evidence of undue contamination from microbes

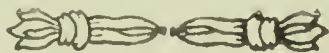
derived from manure, whilst 64 passed. There are now three who sell Tuberculin Tested Milk in the town. The Sanitary Inspector submits these samples to the Devon County Bacteriologist for examination.

9 samples of milk were also taken from the various schools in the Borough.

There are in the Borough 5 Wholesale Producers, 7 Producer Retailers and 13 Retailers of milk.

### **Meat.**

The arrangements for the inspection of meat at the time of slaughter is, for the Sanitary Inspector to attend at the Slaughter Houses on receiving notice from the butchers. The conditions of the regulations are now being carried out in a far better manner than before. Shops and vehicles are clean and much better than they were. Any meat diseased or condemned is generally voluntarily surrendered, a certificate given, and the meat destroyed at the Refuse Tip. Systematic inspection of shops and food stores is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, who makes a detailed report as the Meat Inspector.



## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
No. Killed ...	202	89	113	1401	695
No. Inspected ...	181	82	104	1317	529
All Diseases except Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	22	11	—	47	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	12.15	13.41	—	3.56	2.26
Tuberculosis only Whole Carcases condemned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	6	4	—	—	31
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	3.86	4.88	—	—	5.86

**Sale of Food and Drugs Act.**

This is supervised by the Sergeant of Police, who takes samples and submits them to the Public Analyst.

The following samples were taken during 1938:—New Milk 8, Self Raising Flour 1, Plain Flour 1, White Pepper 2, Margarine 1, Granulated Sugar 1, Moist Sugar 2, Baking Powder 2, Lard 1.

In all cases the sample was described as genuine.

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

### Housing Conditions.

#### 1. General Observations as to Housing Conditions.

There are 1577 inhabited houses in the Borough. The prevailing forms of defects are:—

- (i.) Ground dampness (on the low level).
- (ii.) Back to back (among the oldest type of houses).
- (iii.) Old Roofs.

#### 2. Sufficiency of supply of Houses.

- (a) Estimated extent of shortage. About 50; 11 being in course of erection.
- (b) Population 1938—5966. Census population 1931, 6707.
- (c) Difficulty of providing suitable sites for new houses. There are no sites available on the low level where most of the workers are now living to be within easy call of their employment. There are, however, available sites on the higher ground, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the riverside.

#### 3. Overcrowding.

- (a) There were two cases of overcrowding. Eighteen minor cases were remedied chiefly by removal. The overcrowding consists chiefly in householders dividing bedrooms up for two or three lodgers in the same sleeping room, taking in as many lodgers as possible. This occurs chiefly in the holiday season. The building of more houses would not obviate this.
- (b) Causes due to inability to pay more than 3s. to 4s. per week rent.
- (c) The Council has under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, and Public Health Acts caused an inspection to be made by the Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer of Health over a period of two or more years with a view to ascertaining what dwelling-houses in the Borough are unfit for habitation. This is done in areas.

#### 4. Slum Clearance.

During 1938 work has progressed towards the clearance of the Dartmouth slums.

Four areas have been inspected by me and an official representation made that the houses therein are unfit for human habitation.

The areas are:—1, Smith Street; 2, Horn Hill; 3, South Ford Road; 4, Undercliffe.

#### 5. Bye-Laws relating to Houses, to Houses let in Lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Shed.

Bye-Laws. a—New Streets and Buildings under the Housing Act, 1936, is being considered by the Council during 1939.

b—Houses let in lodgings. None.

c—Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.—None.

d—Dartmouth Corporation Act, 1928.

The water supply to the houses is by different sources of supply, *i.e.*, Corporation, St. Petrox Feoffees, conduits and private supplies. There is one cottage on the Boundary line that has no water supply, except that obtainable from a farm  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile distant, Higher Swannaton Farm, and rain water from the catchment area of the roof (Black House, Swannaton Lane).

#### Water Supplies.

##### (a) Particulars of new water supplies.

One new supply was taken in by piping a stream from Chipton Farm to the Reservoir at Old Mill during the period ending December 31st, 1938, and one new source from Townstal Hill Valley.

##### (b) As regards quality, the water generally is satisfactory. As regards quantity, there is the usual shortage during the summer caused through inadequate storage reservoirs.

The New Water Scheme which is now being carried out will overcome this defect.

##### (c) Bacterial and chemical examination, how often, and results obtained during the year.

During 1938 bacteriological and chemical examinations were made regularly and in all 99 examinations were made, being 79 for chemical examination and 20 for bacteriological examination only.

The results for the chemical examinations are as follows:—

## PUBLIC SUPPLIES.

## Result of Analysis.

	Good.	Doubtful.	Unsatisfactory.
6th January, 1938	5	1	0
1st February, 1938	5	0	0
1st March, 1938	4	0	0
6th April, 1938	5	1	0
21st April, 1938	2	1	0
17th May, 1938	2	3	1
30th May, 1938	5	0	1
3rd November, 1938	1	0	0
20th December, 1938	6	0	0
	—	—	—
	35	6	2

## PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

1st February, 1938	0	1	0
1st March, 1938	1	0	1
14th March, 1938	5	0	1
22nd March, 1938	4	0	2
8th April, 1938	5	1	0
11th April, 1938	6	2	0
21st April, 1938	2	3	0
30th May, 1938	0	1	1
	—	—	—
	23	8	5

The results of the bacteriological examinations are as follows :

## PUBLIC SUPPLIES.

21st July, 1938	5	0	0
19th September, 1938	3	2	1
20th October, 1938	6	0	0
21st November, 1938	1	0	0
5th December, 1938	1	0	0
	—	—	—
	16	2	1

## PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

21st July, 1938	0	0	1
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1—*Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year 1938.*

- 1 [a] Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts ... .. 180

[b]	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	209
2 [a]	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	0
[b]	Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
3	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	57
4	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	26
11— <i>Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices—</i>		
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	151
III— <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year. A—Proceedings under Section 9, 10, 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>		
1	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	10
2	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices—	
[a]	By owners (undergoing repairs)	6
[b]	By Local Authority in default of owners	0
<i>B—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.</i>		
1	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	23
2	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
[a]	By owners	23
[b]	By Local Authority in default of owners	0
<i>C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>		
1	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	42
2	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	34
<i>D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>		
1	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
2	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0



3 Dartmouth Corporation Act, 1938	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
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## Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.

1 [a]	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ... ..	2
2	Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	2
3	Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	12
[b]	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year ... ..	0
1 [c]	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year ...	5
2	Number of persons concerned ... ..	0
[d]	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded ... ..	0
[e]	Any other particulars ... ..	0

## 1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

	No. of Inspec- tions	No. of Written Notices	No. of Prosecu- tions
Factories (with Mechanical Power)	12	0	0
Workshops (with Mechanical Power) ...	16	0	0
Other Premises under the Act	9	0	0
	<hr/> 37	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 0

## DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES

Particulars	No. of Defects			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to Inspector	Number of Prosecutions
<b>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</b>				
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	...
Want of Ventilation	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of Floors	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation	{ insufficient	...	...	...
	{ unsuitable or defective	...	...	...
	{ nor separate for sexes	...	...	...
<b>Offences under the Factories Acts, 1937 :—</b>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (s101)	...	...	...	...
Other Offences	...	...	...	...
(excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the sections mentioned in the schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921	...	...	...	...
Total	...	0	0	0



The working of the Factory Acts in Dartmouth during the year 1938 has been very satisfactory, the number of factories being limited and the work small as compared with former years. The requirements of the Acts with regard to the washing and sanitary conveniences, the display of the Abstract of the Factory and Workshops Acts and other required notices are carried out, and those who are required to do so provide First Aid Dressing Boxes. The number of defects found has been nil.

### Infectious Diseases.

There has been little infectious disease in the Borough during 1938.

There has been no Diphtheria, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, or Puerperal Pyrexia.

There has been one case of Puerperal Fever.

Cases of Scarlet Fever are visited at home in all suitable cases and where necessary Anti-Toxin is given. There was practically no Influenza.

### Disinfection.

There is a Steam Disinfector which has been used during the year for the disinfection of clothing and bedding after Infectious Cases and Tuberculosis. Infected premises are usually fumigated with Formalin. Disinfectants are also issued where required.

Part IV. of the Public Health Act, 1925 (Verminous Premises and Persons) has been adopted.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hosp.	Total deaths
Small Pox	...	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	0	0
Diphtheria	...	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	0	0
Puerperal Fever	...	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	0	0
Pneumonia	...	2	0
Erysipelas	...	0	0

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

**Prevention of Blindness.**

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the P.H.A., 1925, nor under Section 176 of P.H.A., 1936.

**Tuberculosis.**

It has not been found necessary to take any action under the P.H. Regulations, 1925, neither under Section 62 of P.H.A., 1925, nor under Section 172 of P.H.A., 1936.

Age Periods			Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	...	...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	...	...	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	...	...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	...	...	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Vaccination.**

The number of vaccinations done in the Borough during the year by the Public Vaccinator and other Practitioners are as follows:—

Vaccinated	...	...	...	...	...	21
Insusceptible	...	...	...	...	...	0
Conscientious objectors	...	...	...	...	...	42
Died unvaccinated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Postponed as unfit	...	...	...	...	...	1
Not yet dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	1
Removed from district	...	...	...	...	...	1

No revaccinations have been done by the Medical Officer of Health under the (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1927.

## Report of the Dartmouth Infant Welfare Centre.

No. of times opened	...	...	...	...	45
Total attendance of Mothers	...	...	...	...	1228
Total attendance of Toddlers	...	...	...	...	700
Total attendance of Infants	...	...	...	...	803
Number on books	...	...	...	...	138

1 Child was sent to Dartmouth Hospital, 3 to the Torbay Hospital, 4 to the Orthopædic Clinic, and 2 were sent to the School Oculist.

My thanks are due to the ready helpers of the Welfare Centre, whether voluntary or otherwise.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. GREEN,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond).

Medical Officer of Health and  
Medical Officer to the Infant Welfare Centre.

# ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

### SANITARY INSPECTOR

---

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.*

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

#### **Housing.**

During the year great progress has been made in the housing of working class families from 9 Clearance Areas, under Part III., Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, representing 57 families.

At the Ministry of Health Inquiry held on the 5th October, 1937, 61 families were submitted for re-housing from these clearance areas when they would be displaced by the Clearance Orders becoming operative, but 4 of them were taken out by the Ministry of Health, the same being a part of a house which could not be dealt with under the clearance order, but under Part II. of the Housing Act, 1936, by the Council.

During 1938, 63 working class houses have been built and completed for occupation by the Town Council, and are occupied mainly by the persons displaced from Clearance Areas, overcrowded houses and through Closing Orders, and at the time of writing this report 11 more working class houses have been completed and are occupied at Townstal.

9 dwellinghouses have been built by private enterprise during the year.

4 Clearance Areas have been submitted by the Council to the Ministry of Health during 1938 for confirmation and they will be the subject of a Ministry of Health Inquiry during 1939.

## **Overcrowding.**

There are only 2 cases of overcrowding in the Borough. 18 families that were overcrowded have either removed to larger houses, been reduced in family, or rehoused on the Council's New Housing Estate at Townstal.

## **Inspection of the District.**

The Town Council have instructed the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector to inspect the District by Sectors (or areas) and to report to the Public Health Committee any unfit houses of the working class type which in their opinion should be dealt with as clearance areas, also any premises that may require attention under the House, Public Health, Shops or other Acts.

There are many ancient houses in the town which for sentimental reasons the Council would not like to see demolished, some of these could be dealt with possibly under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, others could be preserved structurally but closed for human habitation for which the Housing Act of 1936 provides.

Summary of Repair Work under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, and Section 39-41 of the Public Health Acts, 1936.

- 1 Old roof repaired.
- 2 New roof
- 3 Eaves gutter repaired.
- 4 Defective drains relaid.
- 5 Downpipes repaired.
- 6 Defective drains repaired.
- 7 Inspection chamber provided on old drainage system.
- 8 Defective w.c. pans renewed.
- 9 Defective w.c. pans repaired.
- 10 D. Trap replaced by stoneware gullies of a suitable type.
- 11 Defective yards, paved, drained and repaired.
- 12 Windows, floors, woodwork, fireplaces and cooking stoves repaired.
- 13 Wherever possible, ventilated food stores provided.

## **Regulation Dustbins.**

During the year 2 notices have been served on owners of premises to provide a regulation dustbin under Section

37 of the Dartmouth Corporation Act, 1928, these notices were all complied with, in accordance with the provisions contained in the notices.

### **Shops.**

Shops in the Borough have been inspected during the year, and I am pleased to report that they were kept in a cleanly state at the time of my inspection. There has been no action taken under the Shops Act or Regulations.

### **Petroleum Spirit Act.**

There are 14 persons and firms licensed under the Petroleum Act to keep Petroleum Spirit. There is one firm licensed to keep Carbide of Calcium.

### **Explosives.**

There are 7 persons who have been granted a certificate to keep and sell mixed explosives (cartridges and fire-works).

### **Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.**

No samples of Food have been submitted by me to the Public Analyst under the above Act, because the Police Sergeant, who is the Inspector under the Act for the Devon County Council, takes such samples and submits them to the Public Analyst for examination and report.

I am indebted to Police Sergeant Perryman for the undermentioned report:—

“I beg to report for your information that during the year ending 31st December, 1938, the undermentioned samples were taken in the Borough of Dartmouth, under the Food and Drugs Acts:—

New Milk	...	...	...	...	8	Samples.
White Pepper	...	...	...	...	2	„
Moist Sugar	...	...	...	...	2	„
Baking Powder	...	...	...	...	2	„
Granulated Sugar	...	...	...	...	1	„
Plain Flour	...	...	...	...	1	„
Self Raising Flour	...	...	...	...	1	„
Margarine	...	...	...	...	1	„
Lard	...	...	...	...	1	„
					<hr/>	
Total	...	...	...	...	19	Samples.

I forwarded a portion of each sample by registered post to the Public Analyst at Exeter, and received a Certificate in each case describing the sample as genuine."

### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

No. of houses disinfested:

(a) Council houses—nil.

(b) Other houses—6 were found to be infested with bugs, and all were satisfactorily disinfested.

Treatment of room, bedding, furniture, etc., with Zaldicide at intervals of 7 days until free of this vermin.

Belongings of tenants are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and treated with Zaldicide or destroyed.

This work is carried out by the Public Health Department.

The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector explain to individual tenants their responsibility of assisting to eradicate this vermin and reporting any appearance or reappearance to the Public Health Department.

### **Disinfection.**

During the year 11 premises have been fumigated and bedding furniture, etc., disinfected in the Steam Disinfector, many articles have been destroyed on the Sanitary Inspector's recommendation, mostly those that were vermin infested. In all cases certificates are obtained from the persons responsible so that no claim for such destruction can be made on the Corporation.

The Steam Disinfector is operated by Mr. W. Veale, the Council Employee, who is allocated to the Health Department. He is an efficient workman having a general knowledge of machinery and keeps the apparatus in good working order at all times.

The following articles have been disinfected in the Council's Steam Disinfector:—

26 Blankets, 19 Bolsters and Pillows, 14 Carpets, 9 Sheets, 11 Clothes (Male), 9 Mattresses, 12 Quilts, and 9 sundries—total, 109.

Articles destroyed by consent of a responsible person:

6 Bolsters and Pillows, 4 Carpets, 8 Clothes (Female), 15 Clothes (Male), 8 Mattresses, 2 Mats, 1 Quilt, 7 Sheets 4 Towels and 121 sundries—total, 176.



## Meat Inspection.

There are 8 butchers' shops in the Borough that have cold storage installed, 1 butcher's shop opens on Fridays (market day), and 3 butchers from outside the District occupy stalls in the market. All these premises are inspected periodically during the year, and I have not had any occasion to report any infringement of the Meat Regulations. Various articles of foodstuff that I have condemned have been voluntarily surrendered and taken to the Public Abattoirs for destruction after being saturated with a strong disinfectant.

## Slaughterhouses.

There are two licensed private slaughterhouses and a Public Abattoir owned by the Corporation. All are situate on Jawbones Hill about 3 miles from the Town. These buildings are kept in a cleanly state consistent with the work carried on in them. The water supply to all of them depends on the catchment areas of the roofs of the buildings and storage tanks are provided.

## Slaughtermen's Licenses.

All slaughtermen within the Borough killing food animals for human consumption are licensed and every animal is stunned with a mechanical instrument (humane killer) prior to the animal being bled (except those of Mohammedan Religion from troopships). Strict attention is given by me to see that the Meat Regulations of 1924 are observed. I have had no cause to complain of any irregularity during the year.

## Condemned Carcases.

One steer carcase was condemned and destroyed after having a magisterial order for its destruction. Its weight was 558 lbs. (minus internal organs). Disease: generalised tuberculosis.

Other meat and food condemned:—

180 lbs. of imported beef condemned, bone taint.

	Beef 132 lbs.,	) disease unknown or unwholesome
Pork, 585½lbs., tuberculosis.	Pork, 74 lbs.,	
Offal, 40lbs., tuberculosis.	Mutton, 120 lbs.,	
	Offal, 357½ lbs.	

Total weight, 1867.



Animals slaughtered:—

Cattle (excluding cows)	...	...	...	...	202
Cows	...	...	...	...	89
Calves	...	...	...	...	113
Sheep	...	...	...	...	1401
Pigs	...	...	...	...	695

2213 carcasses inspected.

Carcasses affected with generalised tuberculosis are reported to the County Medical Officer of Health for any action under the Tuberculosis Order (1925).

### Complaints.

Many complaints have come into the Public Health Department during the year and are dealt with as circumstances permit under the various statutory provisions of the Acts.

### Bakehouses.

There are 10 bakehouses in the Borough, 51 visits of inspection have been made during the year, most of them have mechanical power installed, and therefore come under the Home Office Factory Inspectors, though the health conditions of the premises come under the Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer of Health. These premises are kept in a clean and wholesome condition and no cause for complaint has been given.

### Milk—Bacteriological Examination.

125 samples of milk have been submitted to the Devon County Council's Bacteriologist during the year.

No. of samples passed Methylene Blue Test	...	64
No. of samples failed Methylene Blue Test	...	61
No. of School samples examined	...	9

No. of samples examined for Tuberculosis, 27 (all negative)

In the Borough there are: 5 wholesale producers; 7 producer retailers; 13 retailers.

## Factories.

The advent of the new Factories Act, 1937, imposes certain duties on the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector of every Local Authority under Parts I. and VIII. of the Act.

		Inspections.	Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
i.	Factories with mechanical power ... ..	12	—	—
ii.	Factories without mechanical power ... ..	16	—	—
iii.	Other premises (including works of Building and Engineering but not including outworkers' premises) ... ..	9	—	—

## Rat Destruction.

Rat poison bait has been laid in various parts of the district, particularly at the Public Abattoirs and Refuse Tip at Jawbones Hill. Whenever a complaint is received action is taken as soon as possible to deal with this pest.

## Conclusion.

In concluding this report I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Medical Officer of Health and to my colleagues of the Corporation for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. JEFFORD,

Sanitary Inspector.

M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.



